GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:615
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
FUNDS ALLOCATED FROM BACKWARD REGION GRANT FUND
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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to each district from Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) during 2007-08 and the funds actually disbursed therefrom till date; and

(b) the reasons for the poor disbursement of funds from BRGF?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a): The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme includes three components, namely;
(i) releases to those districts which have not received their total entitlement under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY);
(ii) funds for capacity building of Panchayati Raj institutions;
(iii) and untied developmental grants. The total amount available for disbursement under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme during 2007-08 is Rs. 4760 crore. Of this amount, Rs. 250 crore is reserved for capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The remainder is the untied development grant, which also funds the erstwhile RSVY schemes. An amount of Rs. 1188.96 crore has been released so far during 2007-08. Details of releases under all the three components may be seen at Annexe-I.

(b): The main constraints in the drawal of funds under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) have been the backlog of releases to be made under the erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and the necessary time taken in the preparation of district plans from the grass roots level upwards through Panchayats and Municipalities and consolidated by the District Planning Committees, on which the BRGF proposals are to be based. A National Workshop of Zila Parishad Presidents, Chief Executive Officers of Zila Panchayats and officials from the State Governments was held at Delhi on 13-14th October 2007 during which steps to be taken to expedite the drawal of funds under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) were discussed with the participants. The State High Powered Committees in two States namely, Rajasthan and Orissa have approved the district plans in the last week. The State High Powered Committees in three more States namely, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are scheduled to approve a number of district plans in the coming week, thus expediting the pace of releases under the programme.